

ANASTREPHA INTERRUPTA STONE¹
(DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION: ANASTREPHA INTERRUPTA STONE IS ONE OF SIX SPECIES OF ANASTREPHA WHICH OCCUR IN FLORIDA OR WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN FLORIDA AT SOME TIME. WHILE POPULATIONS OF INTERRUPTA FLUCTUATE GREATLY IN DIFFERENT YEARS AND AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE YEAR, THIS IS THE MOST COMMON OF THE SO-CALLED NATIVE SPECIES, AND IT HAS BEEN TAKEN BY TRAPS IN EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR. ONLY ANASTREPHA SUSPENSA (LOEW), BELIEVED TO BE A RECENT RE-INTRODUCTION INTO FLORIDA, IS MORE ABUNDANT AND WIDESPREAD IN FLORIDA. UNLIKE SUSPENSA, INTERRUPTA HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND TO BE AN ECONOMIC PEST.

DISTRIBUTION: SOUTHERN FLORIDA (COUNTIES: MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, BREVARD, PALM BEACH, BROWARD, COLLIER, LEE, DADE, AND MONROE, INCLUDING KEY WEST). THE TYPE LOCALITY IS JENSEN, FLORIDA.

HOSTS: SCHOEPFIA CHRYSOPHYLLOIDES (GULF GRAYTWIG). IN EXPERIMENTAL CAGES THE SPECIES FAILED TO OVIPOSIT ON MIMUSOPS, PIGEON PLUMS, PAPINAO PODS, SOLANUM, AND GUAVAS.

LIFE HISTORY: THE LIFE HISTORY OF ANASTREPHA INTERRUPTA HAS NOT BEEN ASCERTAINED, ALTHOUGH ADULTS HAVE BEEN REARED SEVERAL TIMES FROM THE FRUIT OF SCHOEPFIA CHRYSOPHYLLOIDES, A PLANT INDIGENOUS TO SOUTHERN FLORIDA.

IDENTIFICATION: SMALL YELLOWISH FRUIT FLY, APPROXIMATELY THE SIZE OF A HOUSE FLY, WITH RATHER LONG, PATTERNED WINGS (FIG. 1). EXCEPT FOR A. SUSPENSA, A. INTERRUPTA MAY BE DISTINGUISHED READILY FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENUS WHICH OCCUR IN FLORIDA BY THE PRESENCE OF A BLACK SCUTOSUTELLAR SPOT. IT MAY BE DISTINGUISHED FROM SUSPENSA BY THE SHAPE OF THE OVIPOSITOR OF THE FEMALE. THE TIP OF THE OVIPOSITOR OF INTERRUPTA IS SHORT AND BROAD, WITH MANY FINE SERRATIONS (FIG. 2), WHEREAS THAT OF SUSPENSA IS LONG AND TAPERING, WITH LARGER, ROUNDED SERRATIONS OCCUPYING THE APICAL TWO-THIRDS OF THE TIP (FIG. 3). THE THORACIC SPINES OF INTERRUPTA ARE YELLOWISH BROWN, WHILE THOSE OF SUSPENSA ARE DARK BROWN TO BLACK. THE WING PATTERNS OF THE TWO SPECIES, WHILE SIMILAR, SHOW CHARACTERISTIC DIFFERENCES (SEE ENTOMOLOGY CIRCULAR No. 38, JULY 1965, ILLUSTRATION OF ANASTREPHA SUSPENSA (LOEW)); THAT OF INTERRUPTA IS MOSTLY YELLOWISH WITH MUCH LESS INFUSCATION THAN THAT OF SUSPENSA, AND THE V BAND IS NOT CONNECTED AT ITS APEX WITH THE BANDS ON THE ANTERIOR PORTION OF THE WING, WHEREAS IN SUSPENSA THE V BAND IS DISTINCTLY TO NARROWLY CONNECTED WITH THE S BAND ON THE ANTERIOR PORTION OF THE WING.

A. INTERRUPTA IS CLOSELY RELATED TO A. SPATULATA STONE, WHICH HAS BEEN RECORDED FROM THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY IN TEXAS, TAMAUlipAS AND BAJA CALIFORNIA IN MEXICO, AND IN PANAMA, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WING PATTERN IS SO CONSTANT THAT THERE IS LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN DISTINGUISHING THE TWO. FURTHERMORE, THE TWO SPECIES OCCUPY WIDELY SEPARATED RANGES, HAVING NO ENDEMIC SPECIES IN COMMON.

THE HOLOTYPE FEMALE (UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM No. 53909) WAS TRAPPED BY LUDLUM AND ROBERTS IN A GUAVA TREE, MARCH 17, 1936. ALL OF THE 24 FEMALE AND 14 MALE PARATYPES WERE TRAPPED AT VARIOUS LOCALITIES BETWEEN DECEMBER 30 AND MARCH 16, EXCEPT ONE FROM KEY WEST, TRAPPED ON AUGUST 9.

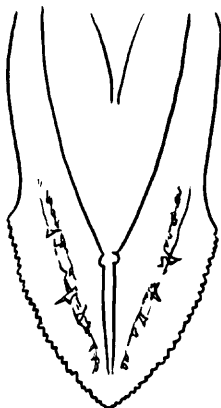


FIG. 2. OVIPOSITOR TIP OF ANASTREPHA INTERRUPTA STONE.



FIG. 3. OVIPOSITOR TIP OF ANASTREPHA SUSPENSA (LOEW).

¹CONTRIBUTION No. 110, ENTOMOLOGY SECTION.

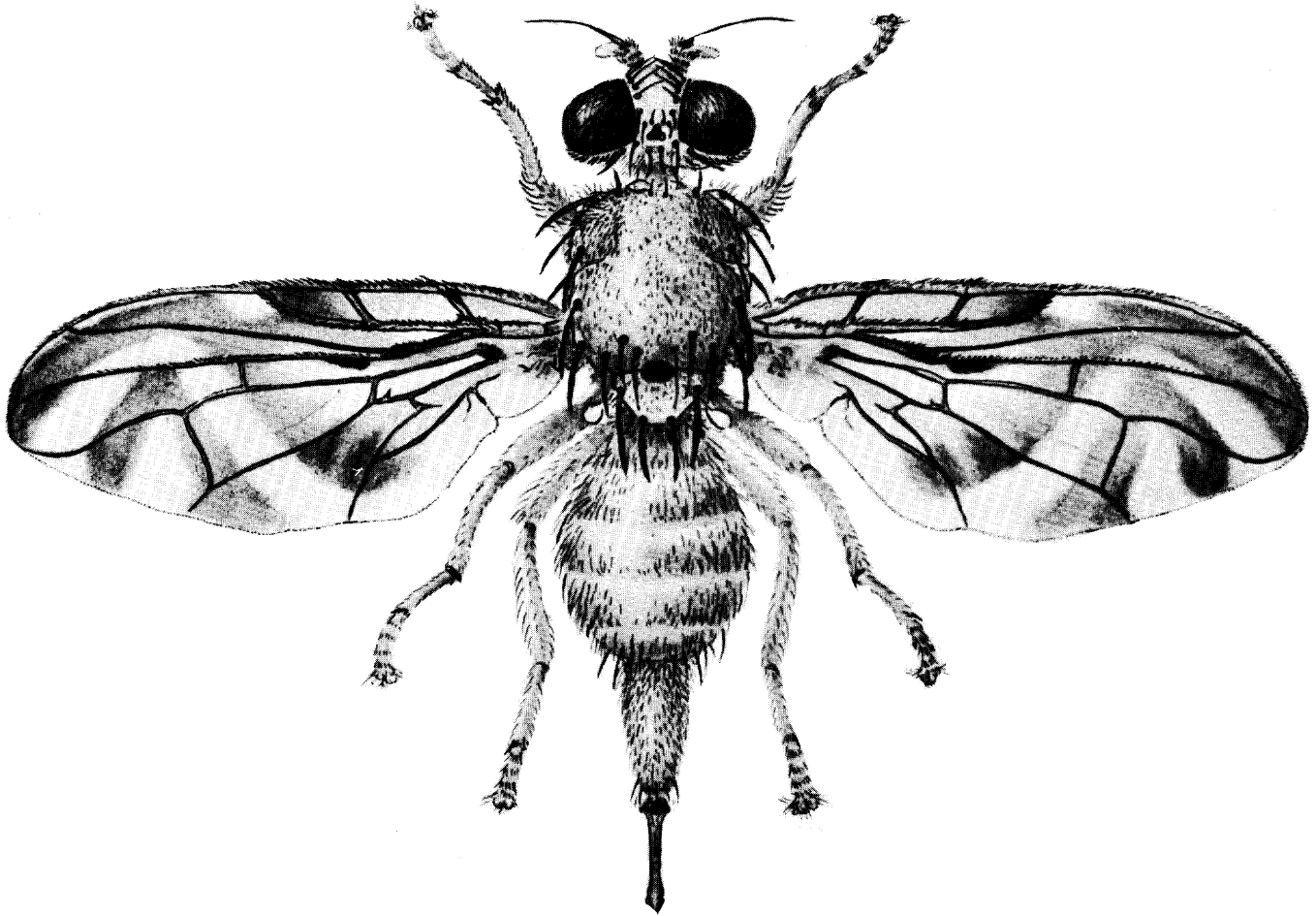


FIG. 1. ANASTREPHA INTERRUPTA STONE, ADULT FEMALE.

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